



Marion A. Bolden
State District Superintendent

THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Vito A. Gagliardi, Sr.
Commissioner of Education

June 4, 2001

The Honorable Sharpe James
Mayor of the City of Newark
City Hall
920 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Mayor James:

On July 2, 2001, over 30 Newark young men and women will begin to take advantage of a chance of a lifetime; they will become pre-apprentices in the Summer 2001 Pre-Apprenticeship Program. Summer 2001 is an 8-week program designed to lead successful participants into union sponsored skilled trade apprenticeships.

The program is sponsored by the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, a recently established public policy advocacy organization based in Newark. Because the Essex County Building and Construction Trades Council and its member skilled trade unions have been an integral part of the work, we anticipate that "graduates" of our summer program will find apprenticeships in one of the trades involved.

The Summer 2001 Pre-Apprenticeship Program is the first of a four-part program that will be offered by the Essex County Construction Careers Program (ECCCP). Other programs to follow include a school-to-construction careers program for juniors and seniors, support for a mentoring program for engineering and architectural aspirants, and a community hiring component. We expect these programs to serve as models that will be adopted by the state government in the implementation of Abbott funded school construction.

If you or members of your staff would like more information about any of the programs, please contact my office or Mr. Ken Zimmerman, Executive Director of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice at (973) 624-9400.

Sincerely,

Marion A. Bolden
Superintendent

MAB:mw

cc: K. Zimmerman

ALL CHILDREN WILL LEARN!